

# SLCC Ventilation- Air Quality

Building ventilation is the circulation of air throughout a building. The ventilation or the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system of a building supplies and removes air either naturally (through windows) and/or mechanically to and from a space. HVAC systems consist of mechanical parts which provide air that is free from harmful concentrations of pollutants to building occupants at a comfortable temperature.

As we breathe, we use up available oxygen and replace it with carbon dioxide. A poorly ventilated room, especially a crowded one, sometimes lacks enough proper fresh supply air to keep carbon dioxide concentrations at low levels. Although elevated carbon dioxide levels are generally not dangerous, this type of scenario may make workers uncomfortable or drowsy.

A poorly positioned air intake can also draw outdoor pollutants into the building. Exhaust from buses and cars or a nearby building furnace can enter a building's ventilation system.

Facilities Division personnel provide regular maintenance for these HVAC systems on the campus to ensure that they function properly and efficiently and minimize the amount of outdoor pollutants that enter a building.

Even with proper maintenance, problems with these systems can arise. If your area experiences any problems with the HVAC system you should report the problem to Facilities Division by calling 801-957-4902 or by submitting a work request via the FIXIT system. You can also do your part by ensuring that vents and air return grilles are not blocked by furniture, boxes, etc.

For more information

visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/indoorenv/BuildingVentilation.html>